(c) Does not arise.

Climate Risk Management

428. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project called "Development of Extended Range Forecast for Climate Risk Management in Agriculture" has been initiated by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to get wheather related information reach quickly to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. A project called Development and Application of Extended Range Forecast System (ERFS) for Climate Risk management in Agriculture has been initiated by Ministry of Agriculture. The major objective in this project is to develop a forecast system to provide seasonal scale prediction of precipitation and surface air temperature during the monsoon season as well as other rseasons over meteorological subdivis'ons/agro-climatic zones in India for use in agricultural applications and by other end-users. It envisages monthly scale forecast for 1-2 repersentative months in experimental mode. Project activities for R&D phase and validation of the application/operationalisation in envisaged to take about six years time. Leading national organizations/institutes like India Meteorological Department, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF). Space Application Centre (Ahmedabad), Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi are associated. The projects is being coordinated by IIT, Delhi through a Scientific and Technical Committee. The project is funded by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture. The project would disseminate generated forecast information in collaboration with NCMRWF through the involvement of Krishi Vigyan Kendras, State Agencies, ICAR institutes, etc.